

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 121350Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8765

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF, WA

SUBJ: VORSTER SPEAKS IN OWAMBO

1. IMPORTANCE SAG ATTACHES TO SHOWING TO OUTSIDE WORLD THAT IT IS NURTURING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF OWAMBO, BY FAR MOST POPULOUS AND MOST IMPORTANT OF NAMIBIAN HOMELANDS, HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY PRESENCE OF PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AND MIN BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT M.C. BOTHA, ALONG WITH OTHER SAG OFFICIALS, AT OPENING OF FIRST SESSION OF SECOND OWAMBO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OCTOBER 11.

2. FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL IN OWAMBO OCT. 10, VORSTER SPOKE TO WHITES-ONLY AUDIENCE GATHERED AT OSHAKATI FOR KRUGER DAY CELEBRATION. HE SAID THAT UNDER WHITES' GUIDANCE, OVAMBOS "ARE BEING PREPARED TO CONTROL AND MANAGE A MODERN STATE." BRUNT OF HIS ADDRESS, HOWEVER, WAS THAT SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD

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HAVE TO STAND ALONE WHEN TIME CAME FOR THEM TO DEFEND THEIR

COUNTRY. THREAT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA WOULD GROW IN THE YEARS AHEAD, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE SOUTH AFRICA GUARDED CAPE SEA ROUTE. NOTWITHSTANDING ROUTE'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO "NON-COMMUNIST WORLD", SOUTH AFRICA COULD EXPECT NO HELP FROM THE WEST.

3. SPEAKING AT CEREMONY MARKING OPENING OF LEGCO SESSION NEXT DAY, VORSTER TOLD OVAMBOS SOUTH AFRICA STOOD READY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AID AND "ANY OTHER ASSISTANCE A DEVELOPING COUNTRY MAY NEED." CONTINUING, HE THANKED OWAMBO GOVERNMENT FOR TAKING "FIRM STAND AGAINST TERRORISM," AND SAID SAG WOULD "COME TO YOUR AID WHENEVER NECESSARY." VORSTER APPEALED TO OVAMBOS "WHOSE ACTIONS AND UTTERANCES ARE CERTAINLY NOT IN THE INTEREST OF OWAMBO" TO CEASE AND DESIST.

4. COMMENT: VORSTER'S SPEECHES IN OWAMO CONTAINED TWO MESSAGES. FIRST IS THAT, DESPITE SUPPRESSION OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND SUBSEQUENT SUCCESSFUL BOYCOTT OF OWAMBO ELECTION, BOTH OF WHICH DRAW INTO QUESTION LEGITIMACY OF OWAMBO GOVERNMENT, SAG GIVING IT FULL BACKING AND PRESSING FORWARD TOWARD GOAL OF "INDEPENDENT" OWAMBO STATE. SAG WILL ANSWER CONDEMNATION FROM UN AND ELSEWHERE BY ASSERTING THAT IT FULFILLING ITS PLEDGE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO WISHES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AS EXPRESSED THROUGH THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

5. SECOND MESSAGE FROM VORSTER IS ONE WHICH INCREASINGLY BEING STATED BY SAG OFFICIALS: DANGER FROM COMMUNIST-INSPIRED EXTERNAL AGGRESSION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IS BOUND TO INCREASE, AND SOUTH AFRICANS MUST BE PREPARED TO STAND ALONE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND THEIR COUNTRY. FOR ALTHOUGH IT IN THE INTEREST OF WEST TO HELP SOUTH AFRICA PROTECT WHITE CIVILIZATION AND CAPE ROUTE, WESTERN NATIONS WILL NOT DO SO. THIS THEME IS EXPECTED TO FORM PART OF VORSTER GOVERNMENT'S APPEAL FOR WHITE UNITY WHICH LIKELY TO BE HEARD FREQUENTLY BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT GENERAL ELECTION FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S WHITE PARLIAMENT. SMITH

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